UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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THE ADMINISTRATOR

National Radon Action Month
January 2006

During National Radon Action Month, our nation is reminded of the serious danger that radon gas poses to us in our homes. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that radon causes about 20,000 deaths from lung cancer annually in the United States. The U.S. Surgeon General has warned that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after cigarette smoking and the number one cause of lung cancer in non-smokers.

Protecting the physical health of all Americans against the natural environmental threat of radon gas begins with testing your home.

Radon is a natural radioactive gas released in rock, soil, and water from the natural decay of uranium. It is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. Fortunately, scientists have provided tools to help protect us from radon through the use of a simple test to determine the level of exposure in our homes, schools, and other buildings. Testing to measure for this dangerous gas in the indoor air we breathe is simple, inexpensive, and effective. If elevated levels are detected, we can protect ourselves from the effect of this harmful gas by fixing our homes using proven mitigation techniques.

EPA works in concert with other federal, state, and volunteer organizations to educate Americans about the radon health threat. There is much we can do to prevent its potentially fatal consequences. During National Radon Action Month, I encourage all Americans to join in this crucial effort and learn more about the health risk posed by radon, test for it, and, when warranted, take steps to reduce your exposure to it.

As the Administrator of EPA, I urge the recognition of January 2006 as National Radon Action Month. I encourage our partners and programs to honor this observation with appropriate ceremonies and activities and to participate in measures to protect the lives of all Americans.

Stephen L. Johnson